

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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Cottonwood Shoot-Out

Blair, NE – Due to safety concerns, the Captain of the Port, St. Louis has denied the request to hold the Cottonwood Shoot-Out, a boat race on the Missouri River, on September 10, 11, and 12 following consultations with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. Boaters will not be allowed to race or participate in this event.

All pleasure boat operators are reminded that they are responsible for the safe operation of their boats and the well being of the people on board. Safety tips for safe boating include:

- Ensure all people 12 years old and under wear life vests;
- Never operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol;
- Check to make sure the boat is free of fire hazards and has clean bilges;
- Have the proper safety gear on board and make sure it is maintained in good working condition;
- Have a float plan. Tell a friend or relative who is going with you, when you will be leaving and returning, and where you will be going;
- Know the area you plan to boat in and the currents you can expect to encounter;
- Maintain a safe speed at all times, watch your wake, and be aware of the boats around you;
- Be aware of the changing weather conditions and be proactive;
- Know and practice the Navigation Rules for inland waters (Rules of the Road).

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